



water supplies; wet prairies and fens; bottomland forests

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **fisher spider**

*Dolomedes triton*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Arachnida
Order:	Araneida

### **Features**

The fisher spider ranges from one-half to three-fourths of an inch. It has two body segments and eight legs. It also has eight eyes.

### **Natural History**

Fisher spiders are widespread. They are common along streams, ponds, and lakes. They do not build webs, but chase and catch their prey. They have excellent vision. Fisher spiders eat insects and occasionally small fish or tadpoles. They can dive and remain submerged for long periods of time because air is trapped in a bubble by the hair on its abdomen that can absorb oxygen from the water and dissipate carbon dioxide. The legs are coated with fluid which repels water so the spider can skim across the water.

### **Habitats**

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; temporary